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RELEASE
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~~(S//NC/CIA-IUO/OC/NF)~~ SUBJ: POSITION OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL OCHOA,
COMMANDER OF THE FOURTH BRIGADE, ON A CEASE FIRE AND THE ACTIVITIES OF
THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS IN HIS AREA OF COMMAND. DOI : EARLY
DECEMBER 1984

Central Intelligence Agency

27 December 1984

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(b)(3) NatSecAct

SOURCE

~~(S//NC/CIA-IUO/OC/NF)~~ DIST: 26 DECEMBER 1984

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: POSITION OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL OCHOA, COMMANDER OF THE
FOURTH BRIGADE, ON A CEASE FIRE AND THE ACTIVITIES OF
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TEXT: 1. LIEUTENANT COLONEL SIGIFRED ((OCHOA)) PEREZ,
COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE FOURTH MILITARY BRIGADE AND MILITARY
COMMANDING OFFICER OF CHALATENANGO DEPARTMENT, IS NOT IN AGREEMENT
WITH A CEASE FIRE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE FARABUNDO MARTI
NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (FMLN). LTC. OCHOA RECENTLY STATED
THAT IF A CEASE FIRE WERE CALLED BY PRESIDENT
NAPOLEON ((DUARTE)), OCHOA WOULD RECOMMEND TO OTHER MILITARY
COMMANDERS THAT PRESIDENT DUARTE BE TOLD THAT HE SHOULD NOT IN-
VOLVE HIMSELF IN MILITARY MATTERS. COMMENT: OCHOA'S COMMENT
CONCERNING THE SALVADORAN PRESIDENT CALLING FOR A CEASE FIRE IS AT
THE MOMENT RHETORICAL SINCE PRESIDENT DUARTE, FOLLOWING CONSULTA-
TIONS WITH HIS LEADING MILITARY OFFICERS, DECLINED TO MAKE THIS
PROPOSAL DURING THE TWO DIALOGUE SESSIONS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE
BETWEEN INSURGENT AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES. A UNILATERAL

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CEASE FIRE OFFERED BY THE INSURGENTS TO TAKE PLACE DURING THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS WAS HONORED BY NEITHER SIDE DURING THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD.) [REDACTED]

COMMENT: ANOTHER INDICATION OF COLONEL OCHOA'S AGGRESSIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PURSUIT OF AN ANTI-INSURGENCY CAMPAIGN IS THE FACT THAT HE HAS TAKEN A MILITARY OFFENSIVE POSTURE BY MOUNTING CONTINUOUS OPERATIONS INTO AREAS OF CHALATENANGO DEPARTMENT LONG CONTROLLED BY FMLN GROUPS. UNITS

FROM THE FOURTH BRIGADE NOW FREQUENTLY PENETRATE AS FAR NORTH (b)(1) AS LA PALMA (1419N 8910W) NEAR THE BORDER WITH HONDURAS. (b)(3) NatSecAct

2. OCHOA WILL NOT PERMIT THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS (CICR) TO OPERATE IN CHALATENANGO DEPARTMENT. OCHOA MAINTAINS THAT THE CICR IS SUPPORTING THE FMLN AND SHOULD, THEREFORE, NOT BE PERMITTED TO FUNCTION IN HIS AREA OF COMMAND. THE CICR HAS COMPLAINED ABOUT OCHOA TO THE HIGH COMMAND OF THE ARMED FORCES OF EL SALVADOR BUT, TO DATE, OCHOA HAS BEEN ABLE TO FEND OFF THESE COMPLAINTS.

[REDACTED] COMMENT: PRESIDENT DUARTE HAS ORDERED THAT THE CICR HAVE ACCESS TO ALL AREAS OF THE COUNTRY. THE CICR, HOWEVER, MUST OBTAIN PERMISSION FROM THE MILITARY COMMANDER OF A DEPARTMENT BEFORE ENTERING THE DEPARTMENT. COLONEL OCHOA ALWAYS IS BUSY WHEN THE CICR REPRESENTATIVE ARRIVES AT HIS OFFICE.)

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3. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] ALL PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.

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